



Media Statement

Parliament must investigate Australia's biggest corporate tax dodger, families to urge

Families from regional Victoria will arrive in Canberra today calling for ExxonMobil to be investigated by the Senate Inquiry into Corporate Tax Avoidance. The families are armed with explosive new research that exposes the global oil and gas giant's tax dodging ways.

The families have been affected by ExxonMobil's drive to cut wages and conditions for local gas workers. They were shocked to learn that ExxonMobil also boosts its bottom line to its foreign shareholders by employing an array of unethical tax practices to avoid paying any corporate tax in Australia.

Last year Chevron was grilled by the Inquiry, while an ATO investigation into that energy giant will likely result in Australian taxpayers gaining billions of dollars in back taxes from the company.

The Exxon research is contained in a new report by the Tax Justice Network. Report researcher Jason Ward also worked on the Chevron investigation and says Exxon's trickery could be even more severe than Chevron's.

"Exxon could very well prove to be more aggressive than Chevron. The initial research shows Exxon is just as brazen about bending the rules to the point of being ridiculous and even less transparent. These natural resources belong to the Australian people and we should be getting more."

"Exxon hasn't paid any corporate tax in two years, while reporting \$18 billion in revenue. Now we know how they did it by using notorious tax havens such as the Netherlands and the Bahamas, high-interest loans and other related party transactions."

"It appears Exxon misled the Senate Inquiry into Corporate Tax Avoidance and has failed to disclose their Dutch-Bahamas structure in annual reports filed in Australia. Exxon has big questions to answer to the Federal Parliament and the Australian people."

Families, including the partners and children of workers, are holding a rally outside Federal Parliament at midday today and meeting with politicians to win support for hauling ExxonMobil before the parliament to get to the bottom of the company's murky tax arrangements.

Unions representing the workers affected by Exxon's wage cuts say they will be running a major campaign to make Exxon pay their fair share of taxes.



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“ExxonMobil is making record profits from soaring gas prices, at the same time they are cutting the wages of local workers and dodging their fair share of taxes to all of us,” says Australian Workers’ Union Victorian Secretary Ben Davis, who will be leading the Canberra delegation.

Electrical Trades Union Victorian Secretary Troy Gray says Exxon's tax-dodging adds insult to injury when every one of the workers paid more tax than their multinational employer.

“It’s un-Australian that a company thinks it can pay zero company tax on billions of dollars of revenue. Working people have to pay tax on pretty much every dollar we earn. Why is there one set of rules for them and another for us?”

Australian Manufacturing Workers’ Union Victorian Secretary Steve Dargavel will also be leading the delegation in Canberra. He says the CUB-style avoidance of the Fair Work Act by Exxon and its contractor UGL confirms how far the company is willing to go to boost its tax-free profits.

“Companies like Exxon are robbing the community of the tax they owe. Just like they’re trying to rip wages out of their workers’ pockets – they’re depriving our hospitals and schools by avoiding paying their fair share of tax.”

“Exxon's tax dodging cost us the equivalent of 68,000 apprenticeships last year alone. They are taking opportunities away from regional youth. It’s time to hold them to account.”

The workers have been fighting for 166 days against Exxon and UGL. Leaked emails reveal Exxon has endorsed UGL’s moves to cut pay by 30 percent using a dubious enterprise agreement voted up by 5 casuals in Western Australia. Workers will be calling for a law change to outlaw sham EBAs.

Event:

**Make Exxon Pay Rally - 12pm - Front Lawn of Parliament / MUA Jobs Embassy
Workers, partners and union secretaries available to speak to media.**

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